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Long Staple Growers.

By HARVIE JORDAN.

The co-operative movement among the cotton growers of the South started two years ago in Georgia. It is gradually spreading out over the entire cotton belt territory. The wide and constant agitation of the objects and purposes of the Cotton Growers' Protective Association, through the columns of the press and addresses delivered at different times before agricultural gatherings have put the farmers to thinking, and they are today beginning to realize that the only hope for their future salvation depends upon some system of co-operating together in the sale of their farm products.

Every farmer will readily admit without argument that co-operation is not only essential to success, but is absolutely imperative, if agriculture is again to occupy a high position along the desirable lines of prosperity. The great difficulty in the way is to perfect any sort of organization which will first secure the enthusiastic endorsement of the rank and file of our people and then hold them together long enough to realize good results. Indifference on the part of the average farmer to attend to his own business interests in the markets are the two chief causes of failure to bring the agricultural classes close together.

Farmers have, it seems, only desired to do the work necessary to produce and put into marketable condition their various products needed for consumption by the world. So far as perfecting any system by which the supply of their products could be made to meet the legitimate demand of consumers and regulating the market price of those products, based upon their true value were concerned, the farmers have by their actions appeared to be utterly indifferent. Yet the continued neglect of these last important essentials has had more to do with failures on the farm than all other things combined. We made the products, and we ought to have whatever legitimate profit the producer is entitled to when the products are sold. But, as already stated, the constant agitation of these defects in our system of handling the products of our farms on the market has put the farmers to thinking, and they are now beginning to act. For two years we have been gradually getting together for the purpose of demanding better prices for our raw cotton, and thousands of farmers in the short staple belt have already been made converts and are preaching the doctrine of co-operation. Recently the long staple growers have determined to unite their forces and by organization and concert of action refuse to any longer quietly submit to the dictation of two or three buyers who have heretofore controlled the long staple cotton market of the South and fixed prices at their own figures.

MEETING AT ALACHUA.

On January 15th, the meeting of the long staple growers of East Florida was held at Alachua, in that State, as had been previously stated in this paper. I had been invited and was present at the convention to assist in perfecting a State association of the Long Staple Cotton Growers of Florida. The recent success the members of a local club at Alachua had in pooling 2,000 bales of cotton, and by co-operation, forcing the price of their staple from 16 cents per pound to 21 cents before they would sell, thereby netting about \$50,000 in 60 days was sufficient to convince the producers in that section that permanent organization was needed.

Several hundred delegates from Alachua county and surrounding counties were present in the little city of Alachua on the day fixed for the convention. The large auditorium in the handsome new brick school building was crowded, and quite a number could not get in. A large number of the farmers' wives and daughters expressed their interest in the movement by their presence during the morning exercises of the convention and later by taking active charge of the dinner which was so abundantly and delightfully served during the dinner hour.

After a full presentation and general discussion of the object and purposes of the Southern Cotton Growers' Protective Association, it was unanimously decided to at once perfect a State association of the long staple cotton growers of Florida, and a business committee was appointed to at once prepare a constitution, by-laws, and other details necessary, and present back to the convention for ratification. This committee met in executive session immediately after dinner and after some discussion adopted the same constitution and by-laws already in force in all the other States which had organized under the rules and regulations of the Interstate Association. The following officers were elected: J. B. Dell, president, Gainesville, Fla.; James Chestnut, vice-president, Alachua; J. G. Kellum, secretary and treasurer, Alachua.

The election of the executive committee, which shall consist of three members from each long staple county in the State, was postponed until the next meeting, which was called to meet at Alachua on the second Wednesday in February.

All the details of organization were carefully worked out and the movement will be pushed on a business basis. The president was authorized to proceed at once to the organization of sub-branches

of the State association in every long staple county in Florida, and it is confidently predicted that by next season the long staple growers in that State will be sufficiently united and posted on the value of their staple to make the buyers pay better prices than heretofore.

WAREHOUSE FACILITIES.

The plan of establishing co-operative warehouses was fully discussed also at the meeting, and the farmers at Alachua have determined to construct a warehouse in which to store and hold their cotton, instead of rushing it into the market as heretofore.

Each county will doubtless adopt the same plan, as warehouse facilities will be needed to take care of the cotton and preserve it from the weather and risk of fire. The farmers may agree to build these warehouses themselves or get the railroads which operate through their territory to construct and maintain them.

An elegant old-fashioned barbecue was served to the delegates in royal style. A long table, covered with snowy white cloth, and loaded with hundreds of pounds of crisp brown barbecue, fried chicken, ham, potatoes, biscuits, custards, pies, jellies, pickles, etc., giving out a savory odor which was truly inviting to a middle Georgia farmer. And indeed there was not a single person present among the hundred who lined upon either side of that bountiful spread who did not fully enjoy his repast and within his soul cast a vote of thanks to the committee having the dinner in charge and particularly to the fair ladies who made everything so inviting through their cordial and hospitable entertainment.

I have never yet failed to secure a unanimous sentiment among farmers in favor of organization immediately after their having feasted on a first class barbecue dinner, and if we could keep up these barbecues and the presence of the ladies at all our meetings, organization would rapidly grow into popularity throughout the South.

I spent the night of the 15th and the next day at the hospitable home of Mr. James Chestnut, who lives six miles from Alachua, and who is one of the pioneer farmers in that section and one of the most influential and successful men in the county. There is no greater pleasure for me than in enjoying the cordial hospitality of a prosperous farmer, and I shall not soon forget the happy, restful hours spent under the roof of my host's inviting and particularly entertaining country home.

The farm lands in that section of Alachua county are unusually fertile and valuable for agricultural purposes. The farmers were quite busy turning their lands with two-horse turning plows, and pushing their work preparatory to getting everything in first-class condition for planting later on.

It is a decided pleasure to ride through a section of country where the farm lands are in splendid condition and all things point to successful agriculture through the adoption and use of improved methods and farming machinery.

Mr. Chestnut adheres strictly to the system of rotation, and letting each field rest every fourth year. Under this plan his lands are kept up to the highest state of their original natural fertility. The question of having an official organ for the benefit of the members of the association was discussed, and it was unanimously agreed that such an organ was imperative in properly and economically disseminating the information needed. This seems to be the general consensus of opinion throughout all the State and we hope soon to be able to announce all arrangements perfected for securing the circulation of such a paper. If we will work and pull together, we can grow and prosper.

THE DAGGRY FLOATED

A Norwegian Steamship Dynamite Laden That Went Ashore Near Gull Shoals

(By the Associated Press.)

Cape Henry, Va., Feb. 1.—The Norwegian steamship Daggr, loaded with dynamite and railroad iron, before reported ashore near Gull Shoals Life Saving Station, N. C., was pulled off by tugs last night and is now on her way to Norfolk.

To Colonize Negroes in Ohio.

(By the Associated Press.)

Hastings, Ia., Feb. 1.—A negro from Southern Alabama has been in this county for the past three days getting options on large tracts of the finest land in Mills county. The object is to colonize negroes for farming and garden purposes to place their products on the Omaha markets.

Shot Dead in Dispute Over Cards.

(By the Associated Press.)

Rossmore, Va., Feb. 1.—Details were received here today of a fatal shooting affray at the little mining town of Key-stone, W. Va., last night, in which Daniel Harmon and Dr. E. J. Daniels were the participants. The two men were engaged in a game of cards when a dispute arose and the shooting quickly followed. After the smoke had cleared away it was found that Harmon had been shot and instantly killed. Both were popular Har-boro, who leaves a widow and two children, recently sold some coal lands by which deal he is said to have cleared \$150,000.

Cuttings vs. Draws.

By BRYAN TYSON.

In a recent article it was shown that if draws get sufficiently long to be cut in the middle, thus making two plants out of each draw, the top ends will produce nearly double the potatoes that the stubs will and of much better quality. Also, if the vines on the bed run from 2 to 4 feet and are then cut into lengths of three leaves each (if the leaves are far apart, two will answer), these cuttings will exceed draws of proper size in yield more than 33 1-3 per cent. (more accurately, 36 per cent).

TO GROW VINES FOR CUTTING PURPOSES.

Artificial heat should be employed. I favor the trench system with the potatoes placed lengthwise in two parallel rows one foot apart. To construct this bed, dig a trench 2 feet broad, 18 inches deep, and of a proper length to suit the quantity of potatoes.

Fresh stable manure and green pine boughs are probably the most suitable materials for heating purposes. The one selected may be placed a foot deep in the trench, and properly wet with water; pine boughs should be well packed, but much packing of stable manure will, to a great extent, prevent the proper heating of same. Boughs of old field pines are good.

The heat generated by pine boughs is not so strong as that of fresh stable manure, but it is ample for all practical purposes.

Then place on the pine boughs (or stable manure) rich soil, preferably sandy, to the depth of 3 to 4 inches. Then apply an inch additional of the following mixture: For each 50 running feet of bed, or in that proportion, 5 to 10 pounds of a fertilizer containing nitrogen 2 per cent., phosphoric acid 6 per cent., potash 7 per cent., mixed with a proper quantity of soil. Then apply an inch of rich soil without fertilizer; this arrangement will prevent the fertilizer from damaging the potatoes. After completion, the bed should stand about eight days to get warm, when the potatoes should be placed, as aforesaid, and covered 1 1/2 to 2 inches deep. With said distance, strong vigorous plants will be produced, which will yield far better than plants from potatoes crowded in the usual way. When completed, the top of bed should be 4 to 6 inches above a level.

If preferable, a bottomless box of proper size, in lieu of the trench, may be constructed by standing plank edge-wise and securing them with stakes driven into the ground. Bank with soil on the outside, thus making the box tight.

Excessive heat should be checked with water. If there be too much rain, cover during wet days. No glass frames needed.

For this climate (North Carolina) a bed may be prepared about March 29th, and the potatoes planted April 6th. By April 30th the draws will be sufficiently large to transplant, or rather to thin, as follows: Draw from one-half to three-fourths of the plants, leaving the residues to develop for cutting purposes; the stoutest plants should be left.

From 600 to 800 pounds per acre of the above fertilizer may be applied in drills four feet apart, mixed with the soil and low ridges constructed thereon. The above draws may then be planted 18 inches apart for early potatoes, rejecting the small weakly plants. At the proper time cut the vines into suitable lengths, leaving three leaves on the stubs. Then stick the cuttings into loosely constructed trenches, 6 to 10 inches broad, giving the plants about one inch distance; one joint should be above ground. Settle the soil with water and draw loose soil around the plants; no further watering will be needed. If the weather be warm, cover for a few days. Roots will soon form, when the plants should be dug up (not pulled up) and transplanted. Then rooted, cuttings will live much better and grow off more readily than draws. When the stubs succor they may be cut off, rooted and transplanted.

ANOTHER PLAN FOR BEDDING. If the above plan be too expensive, I have another that will answer all practical purposes, but the plants will be a few days later.

Procure a box of proper size, and fill with fresh stable manure to the depth of about one and a half feet applying water as the manure is placed. Then cover the manure with straw and old clothes. When a proper heat is developed, the potatoes, after soaking them a few hours in tepid water, should be placed in the box to the depth of 6 to 8 inches, and properly covered to retain the moisture. Water should be occasionally applied, thus preventing damage from heat. In a few days, the potatoes will commence sprouting, when they should be taken out and placed in trenches, without the expense of a hot bed. Thus treated, the potatoes will not rot after bedding. I have tested this plan with excellent results.

It is believed that potatoes, by either plan, will yield only one profitable crop of vines.

Carthage, N. C.

BRYAN TYSON.

THE RECIPE WITH A NATIONAL REPUTATION.

(Written by Request for a Farmer's Wife by a Kentuckian.)

We who write for farm and agricultural papers are often requested to send methods and good (or popular recipe) to a subscriber's home paper—and it is

so in this case—a farmer's wife whom I judge is progressive and up-to-date in home and household affairs as well as other national and outside affairs, wish me to send this famous old receipt for curing hams and shoulders, known by the name of "The Blue Grass Kentucky ham receipts." She reads the Farmers and Mechanic, which is excellent, and she says, like many others, that if she once gets hold of this recipe in print she can preserve it by cutting it out immediately and pasting it in her scrap-book. I have a warm place in my heart for the North Carolina mothers and wives—they seem to be part of us—as their methods and ways of doing things are very much like our Kentucky home-wives. I am very busy with my pen (especially at Xmas times), but I cannot refuse so gracious a request. I give the recipe which is excellent and unsurpassed, and it has been used with unvarying success for many years in our family. It has gained recognition abroad, and 20,000 boxes of our bacon are shipped weekly to Liverpool and the English epicures won't have any other kind of ham upon their table. It reads as follows: "After the meat is taken up to be dried, wash it clean in hot water, and while damp sprinkle powdered borax all over the fleshy side of every piece, and you need not fear ever having skippers or insects of any kind, although hams hung in the smoke-house until cured without even a sack on them. If the summer is very dry, rewash and put more borax on in July and August. The taste of the meat will not be injured, but will keep sweet and juicy. Each ham may be tied up in a canvas bag or paper bag or it may be left hanging in a dry cool place. Shoulders may be cured in the same way. The packers ship large quantities abroad."

MRS. SARA H. HENTON.

Georgetown, Ky., Dec. 26, 1901.

TEN DEAD OF HUNGER

Chaffee Gives up the Marines

Lost on March Across

Samar.

(By the Associated Press.)

Washington, Feb. 1.—General Chaffee has cabled to the War Department a report of the march of Major Waller and his marines across Samar. It is the first full account of the march and tells a tale of terrible suffering and hardship. The story of the suffering is told in the following dispatch: "The War Department is advised of the trip of Major Waller, four officers and fifty men of the Marine Corps, 50 native bearers, with four days' rations, who started the last week in December from Lanang on the east coast of Samar, to cross the island of Basey, about 25 miles, on map. Trail at one time existed, but found in places only. Lieut. Lyles 12th infantry, accompanied the command. Incessant rains from the start, swollen streams and other natural obstacles made progress extremely slow. When rations consumed, men exhausted rapidly, dropping on the way. Major Waller separated from Captain Porter, Lieut. R. F. Williams and a major part of the men, proceeded toward Basey, where he arrived January 9th with two officers, thirteen men, also Lieut. Lyles. He returned to the mountains next day with relief, but returned to Basey about ten days later unsuccessful. Porter was to build rafts, but timber would not float. Second day after separating from Waller, Porter moved toward Lanang, arriving January 11th with two men and all exhausted physically and mentally. "Lieut. R. F. Williams and over thirty men left in mountains in similar condition with native bearers. Relief expedition under Lieut. Kenneth P. Williams, First Infantry, delayed starting two days by storm raging and a torrent river, started thirteenth, reached marines 18th, saving Lieut. Williams and all except ten men not found, who are no doubt dead from starvation. Namely: Privates Fangule, E. Foster, G. M. Britt, T. Ward, Brown, F. F. Murray, T. Buffet, Bailey, Baroni, Connell, R. Kettle, died hospital Tacloban, January 23. Capt. Porter, Lieut. Williams and 18 men hospital, Tacloban, not very clear in mind regarding much of time covered by period of suffering. All will probably recover. Major Waller at present disordered in his recollections. Suffering of this command twenty days cannot be described. The efforts of Lieut. Williams, First Infantry, and his relief party, unequalled for courage and labor."

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Hay Growing at South.

By F. J. MERRIAM, Director of the Census.

There was more hay grown at the South the past season, it is safe to say, than ever before in her history. Many a farmer can look with pride on his full barns and numerous hay stacks. He has a very comfortable feeling as he sees the price of hay and corn mounting higher, for he knows that even if his cotton does not bring what he expected he will be all right anyway.

But while the South has produced this year a comparatively large crop of hay, the industry is yet in its infancy. The majority of our farmers do not yet realize that hay can be grown more profitably than cotton, or that it can be made to fill out a rotation which will help to increase the yield of cotton per acre.

As a rule it is not considered good economy to sell hay off the farm as the crop carries with it a large amount of plant food. At ordinary prices it would undoubtedly pay better to feed the hay to cattle on the farm and return to the soil the greater part of the plant food in the manure. At present prices, however, it will pay better to sell the hay, and even in ordinary times we can make hay very profitable as a market crop.

While it is true that it removes a large amount of fertility, the crop helps the land by preventing it from washing and leaching, thus utilizing a large amount of fertility which would otherwise be lost. This is especially true on those crops which hold the land in winter, such as the Gray Winter or Turf oats. These oats make excellent hay if cut when in bloom, and they do well on any ordinary up-land. We sold them last spring in Atlanta at \$18 per ton, and the price will undoubtedly be still higher this year.

The fertility removed from the soil by a ton of this oat hay is as follows: nitrogen, 23.8 pounds; phosphoric acid, 13.4 pounds; and potash, 50.8 pounds. The nitrogen used by this crop would in a large measure have leached out of the soil and be lost with the winter rains if the oats did not use it. It is worth on the market about 15 cents per pound and therefore the \$3.57 worth of this element used by the oats is really saved, instead of removed from the soil. The other two elements of plant food are not so expensive, being worth only about five cents per pound. They are seldom leached out of any soil and may, therefore, be considered as removed by the crop. Of the two, potash constitutes by far the largest amount of the plant food removed. We can, however, well afford to return to the land in the shape of a chemical fertilizer the \$3.11 worth of fertility represented by the phosphoric acid and potash, especially on a crop which pays as well as a hay crop.

Another advantage of the oat crop for hay is that it can be harvested in time to sow the land to cow peas and thus grow two hay crops on the same land in a period of twelve months. The oats also come in in June and reach the market at a time when the price of hay is at its highest point. At this time it will sell for as much as timothy at other seasons.

With the cow pea the principal element of plant food removed from the soil is nitrogen. A ton of this hay contains \$5.35 worth of it, but it cannot be claimed that this is really removed from the land, for the cow pea obtains its nitrogen from the air and actually leaves the soil richer in this element than it found it, even though the vines are cut and removed from the land. There is also about \$1.47 worth of potash and 25 cents worth of phosphoric acid removed in a ton of this hay, or with a crop of two tons per acre, about \$1 worth of fertility.

The main thing in growing those hay crops profitably for market is to see that the mineral elements in the soil are kept supplied. If the cow pea hay crop is well fertilized each year with at least 600 pounds per acre of a fertilizer analyzing 16 per cent phosphoric acid and 10 per cent potash, and the oat crop is also fertilized in a similar manner, there will be a steady gain in the fertility of the land while producing paying crops of hay. If your soil is a very stiff red clay the potash in the above fertilizer may be reduced about one-half, as such land contains more potash than loamy or sandy soils.

It is needless to say that the land for these crops must be thoroughly prepared. We cannot expect results from the application of fertilizers on land which is merely scratched over. There is one thing which is just as necessary as fertilizer to a crop, and that is water, and unless our land is broken deeply and worked fine it will not hold water. This tillage also makes a comfortable bed for the plants to grow in and helps to liberate the dormant plant food in the soil.

With proper attention to preparation and fertilization we should be able to grow easily four tons of hay per acre in one year, two tons of pea vine hay and two tons of oat hay, or in the neighborhood of these amounts some crops may run over and some under, according to the season. At \$18 per ton, and these hays will easily sell for that, if not more, this coming spring, we have a gross income from one acre of land of \$72 per year. With such figures as these we can easily afford to fertilize and prepare our land in the best possible manner.

Of course if the hay is to be sold readily it must be cut at the right time, well cured and neatly packed in uniform sized bales. The trade demands this, and in fact it is the only way in which hay can be profitably handled. There

are numbers of excellent hand and horse hay presses on the market, and any farmer who contemplates growing hay should have one.

I have given here the two crops which seem to me, judging from the experience I have had with them, to give the best chance for successful hay growing on our Southern uplands. And not the smallest item of advantage is the fact that under their culture as I have outlined, the land will continue to grow richer from year to year, and the crops larger.

It may be advisable in some instances to rotate these crops with cotton and corn, but they can be grown in the same land year after year with the most beneficial results, one crop coming off in time to plant the next and both contributing to the preservation and improvement of the soil.

WIPED OUT BY FIRE

Pritchard and Winstead's Stemmy Crumbles in Flames.

(Special to the News and Observer.)

Goldboro, N. C., Feb. 1.—Pritchard & Winstead's tobacco stemmy was destroyed by fire this evening together with a large quantity of leaf tobacco. The fire was discovered at 7 o'clock near the engine room. At 8 o'clock the destruction is complete.

The building, owned by H. Weil Bros. and others, was 80 by 100 feet, three and a half stories in height. A conservative estimate places the loss between \$40,000 and \$50,000, with some \$30,000 insurance on building and stock.

Mr. Pritchard was seen but declined to make any statements as to the probable loss in the absence of the books of the concern, which are in the ruins and contain a record both of stock carried and insurance on same.

The Goldboro Buggy Company's large factory was in great danger during the progress of the fire, but heroic work of the fire department, aided by the wind, saved this building. So intense was the heat and such the volume and fury of the flames that all efforts to save the stemmy were of no avail.

Hundreds of our citizens came forth in the drizzling rain and stood and watched the awe-inspiring scene. It was a picture of terrific splendor as through dense smoke the fire-tongues shot for a hundred feet into space.

About 150 hands will be thrown out of employment as a result of the fire.

SHALL WE SEE THE PRINCE?

Resolution by Oley Providing That His Itinerary Extend Through This State.

(By the Associated Press.)

Washington, Feb. 1.—Representative Oley, of Virginia, today introduced in the House a